

Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Duquesne, PA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Cities of Duquesne, McKeesport, and Clairton for a Brownfields Pilot. These cities are three of twenty-two communities located in the Monongahela River Valley in western Pennsylvania. With its access to rail lines and proximity to the Monongahela River, the valley was the heart of the country's steel, chemical by-product, glass, and electrical manufacturing industries for a century. From 1970 to 1990, the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Region, which includes these cities, lost 54 percent of its manufacturing jobs as industrial plants closed due to international competition and lack of investment—over 89,000 jobs in the metals fabrication industry alone were lost. The result is the country's largest concentration of brownfields and related socio-economic problems. Two-thirds of the valley's 215,000 residents have a high school education or less. One-third of African Americans, who comprise 14 percent of the population, live in poverty.

The Steel Valley Authority (SVA), formed in 1986 by 22 valley municipalities, is leading an effort to revitalize the area and devise an economic redevelopment strategy. The SVA developed an initial inventory of 52 brownfields sites totaling 1,420 acres. The Pilot, through the SVA, will target

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Duquesne, Pennsylvania

Date of Announcement:
March 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets three sites, one each in the cities of Duquesne, McKeesport, and Clairton, for assessment and community outreach.

Contacts:

Steel Valley Authority
(412) 460-0488

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 3
(215) 814-3129

Visit the EPA Region 3 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/brownfld/hmpage1.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

three of these sites for redevelopment in the Cities of Duquesne, McKeesport, and Clairton. Each of these cities has already been designated as both a federal and a state Enterprise Community.

OBJECTIVES

Through the assessment effort, the Pilot will conduct site-specific community education and involvement activities to foster cooperation within the valley relating to environmental restoration and economic renewal. It is hoped that public understanding and consensus will provide momentum towards economic redevelopment for the entire Monongahela River Valley.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Performing Phase I and II environmental assessments at three sites including: McKee's Point, Hercules Property, and the former Grant Steel site;
- Developing and holding six Community Environmental Restoration Forums; and
- Establishing community-based committees to provide input into the forums and project planning and evaluation functions. The committees will include Risk Assessment and Community Health, Job Training, and Environmental Justice.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.